Message Text

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EYES ONLY UNDERSECRETARY SISCO

E.0. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, MO, SS SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA

- 1. UNDER SECRETARY ROVIRA TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT CORTINA AND HE WERE UNCERTAIN ON HOW TO DEAL WITH A MESSAGE WHICH HAD BEEN RECEIVED OCTOBER 21 FROM THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN RABAT. ACCORDING TO ROVIRA, THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR HAD REPORTED ON A LONG CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH BOB NEUMANN. ACCORDING TO THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR, AMBASSADOR NEUMANN HAD INQUIRED ON A "PERSONAL" BASIS WHAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S REACTION WOULD BE TO THE IDEA OF INTRUSTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SPANISH SAHARA TO THE UN WITH MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA BEING DELEGATED TO ACT AS THE TRUSTEE POWERS. A REFERENDUM MIGHT THEN BE HELD WITHIN TWO TO THREE YEARS. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT BOB NEUMANN HAD ASKED HIM TO CONVEY THIS SUGGESTION TO CORTINA AND SEEK HIS VIEWS WITH THE IDEA THAT THE PROPOSAL MIGHT OFFER A WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT SITUATION.
- 2. ROVIRA SAID THAT WITH EVERYTHING ELSE THAT WAS GOING ON, CORTINA HAD NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON A REPLY, BUT ROVIRA CHARACTERIZED THIS ALLEGED IDEA OF AMBASSADOR NEUMANN AS "AWKWARD." ROVIRA ASKED ME WHETHER I COULD SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE MATTER. I REPLIED THAT I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT. CONFIDENTIAL

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EM I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE GUIDANCE ON THIS MATTER. IF, INDEED, THIS IS ONLY A PERSONAL IDEA OF NEUMANN'S, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT HE BE ASKED TO REFRAIN FROM PUTTING FORWARD SUCH PERSONAL IDEAS SINCE THEY COULD ONLY COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A NEUTRAL ATTITUDE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE QUESTION. I WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT IF WE HAVE ANY "OFFICIAL" VIEWS TO CONVEY TO THE SPANISH, THEY WOULD BE CONVEYED THROUGH ME. STABLER

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